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Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 2666

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: UN, EAID, EFIN, EAG
SUBJECT: WHAT TO DO WITH SARTAJ AZIZ?

1. REPORTED SEPARATELY IS THE MAIN PART OF AN INFORMAL CONSULTATION BETWEEN GROUP-77 AND DEVELOPED COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES ON FEBRUARY 16 WHICH DEALT MINLY WITH SELECTION OF THE BUREAU FOR THE UP-COMING MEETINGS OF THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL (WFC). THE ONE OTHER SUBJECT DISCUSSED IN SOME DETAIL WAS THE COMPLICATED ONE, INVOLVING SEVERAL AGENCIES, OF WHAT TO DO WITH SARTAJ ARIZ (PAKISTAN)
.
THE EVENING MEETING WAS CONVENED BY THE CHAIRMAN OF GROUP-77, AMBASSADOR J.E. JOHN RODRIGO (SRI LANKA) AND INCLUDED AMBASSADOR AL-SUDEARY (SAUDI ARABIA), AKE ANDERSON (SWEDEN), ALEXANDER LANDYMORE (U.K.) AND CHRISTOPHER NORRED (U.S.LM

2. ARIZ, WHO HAS A BACKGROUD IN THE PAKISTAN PLANNING COMMISSION AND THE FAO COMMODITIES AND TRADE DIVISION, WAS SECONDED BY FAO TO SERVE AS ONE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERALS OF THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE IN 1974. IN EARLY 1975, HE BECAME A DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE NEWLY CONSTITUED WFC, PAID BY FAO. WHEN FAO DIRECTOR-GENERAL SAOUMA (LEBANON) TOOK OFFICE IN JANUARY HE INSISTED THAT ARIZ END HIS TENURE AS DIRECTOR OF THE COMMODITIES AND TRADE DIVISIION OF FAO, AND BE PURELY A WFC OFFICIAL. IN EARLY 1976, PAKISTAN NOMINATED ARIZ FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE UN
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SECRETARY-GENERAL TO REPLACE WFC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JOHN HANNAH (U.S.). LATER IN 1976, ARIZ WAS CHOSEN TO BE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY (A TEMPORARY POST) OF THE PREPARATORY COMMISSION OF THE INTERNA-TIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, AND WAS SECONDED TO THAT POST BY THE WFC.

3. FIRST, THERE IS THE QUESTION OF AZIZ' CANDIDACY FOR THE APPOINT-

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IVE POST OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE WFC. THIS HAS BEEN DEFER-
RED BY THE REPORTED INDEFINITE EXTENSION OF THE TENURE OF DR.
JOHN HANNAH. IN THE FEBRUARY 16 INFORMAL DISCUSSION, RODRIGO
COMMENTED THAT AZIZ HAD MOSLEM BLOC SUPPORT FOR THAT POST,
WHEN IT DOES BECOME VACANT. NORRED RAISED A QUESTION AS TO
THE CURRENT STRENGTH OF THAT MOSLEM BLOC SUPPORT, AND AL-SUDEARY
SAID THAT AZIZ HAD ANTAGONIZED MANY COUNTRIES, AND HIS SUPPORT
HAD BEEN WEAKENED. THE CONSENSUS OF THE FEBRUARY 16 DISCUSSION
WAS THAT AZIZ WOULD IN ANY EVENT NOT BE WELL SUITED TO THE POSITION
BECAUSE OF HIS INDEPENDENT WILLFULNESS.

4. WHEN THE QUESTION WAS RAISED ABOUT A CONTINUING ROLE FOR AZIZ
IN IFAD, AL-SUDEARY VEHEMENTLY (UNUSUAL FOR HIM) CRITICIZED
AZIZ. AS AN EXAMPLE, HE SAID THAT AZIZ HAD SENT OUT THE REPORT
OF THE IFAD PREPARATORY COMMISSION WITHOUT CHAIRMAN AL-SUDEARY'S
APPROVAL, ALTHOUGH AL-SUDEARY HAD TOLD HIM EXPLICITLY HE WANTED
TO REVIEW IT IN DETAIL. ALL THE COPIES HAD TO BE RECALLED AND
CORRECTED. IT WAS RECALLED THAT IN THE 1976 MINISTERIAL MEETING OF
THE WORLD FOODCOUNCIL, WHEN LANDYMORE AS RAPPORTEUR WAS QUERIED
ABOUT A PORTION OF THE DRAFT REPORT, HE HAD HAD TO SAY THAT HE
HAD NOT SEEN THAT DRAFT BEFORE IT HAD BEEN PRINTED AND DIS-
SEMINATED (BY AZIZ). EARLIER IN THAT CONFERENCE, IN A CONSULTATION
WITH THE BUREAU, UNDER SECRETARY SISCO IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID TO
AZIZ QTE YOU ARE NOT BEHAVING OBJECTIVELY OR IMPARTIALLY. WE
CANNOT WORK WITH YOU. UNQTE. ALSUDEARY (THE ONLY ANNOUNCED CANDIDATE
FOR THE IFAD PRESIDENCY) SAID THAT IF HE HAD TO HE WOULD TRY TO
ACCOMMMODATE AZIZ WITHIN IFAD, BUT THERE WAS NO READILY SUITABLE
POSITION. DIRECTOR OF ONE OF THE IFAD DIVISIONS WOULD NOT BE A
HIGH ENOUGH POST TO SATISFY AZIZ. TRADITIONALLY IN SUCH ORGANIZATIONS
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THERE IS A CHIEF OF THE SECRETARIAT, BUT THAT IS THE TYPE OF POST
AT WHICH HE PERFORMS WORST. A SECOND VICE-PRESIDENCY COULD
BE CREATED, BUT THAT WOULD REQUIRE AN AMENDMENT OF THE RULES OF
PROCEDURE.

4. AS FOR HIS RETURNING TO HIS DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR POST IN
THE WFC, HE IS STILL ON THEIR ROLES, BUT HE IS NO LONGER PAID BY
THEM, AND REPORTEDLY NONE OF THE HIGH OFFICIALS THERE WOULD WELCOME
HISRETURN.

5. THE CONSENSUS OF THE FEBRUARY 16 DISCUSSION WAS THAT THE BEST
SOLUTION WOULD BE FOR HIM TO FOCUS HIS ACTIVITIES IN THE
SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, OF WHICH HE HAS RECENTLY
BECOME PRESIDENT. HE IS REPORTEDLY MOVING THE HEADQUARTERS OUT OF
WASHINGTON AND IS SEEKING ADDITIONAL FINANCILA BACKING. HE IS A
HIGHLY INTELLIGENT AND IMAGINATIVE MAN, AND WOULD BE GOOD AS HEAD
OF A THINK-TANK. HE ATTENDED THE KISSINGER SEMINAR AT HARVARD,
AND PARTICIPATED IN A SIMILAR ONE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, AND HE
SEEMS TO BE MOVING IN THAT DIRECTION HIMSELF IN THE SID. (COMMENT:

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IN OUR OPINION, THIS SOLUTION IS LIKELY TO COME ABOUT AS AN END
RESULT WHEN OTHER OPPORTUNITIES ARE CLOSED OFF, AND IS NOT
SOMETHING WE SHOULD OR COULD DIRECTLY ENCOURAGE.)BEAUDRY

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